

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 02451 141757Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PC-01 AID-05 A-01 CCO-00 HA-05
FBOE-00 OC-06 OMB-01 OPR-02 CA-01 MCT-01 SCS-06
SY-05 USSS-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 EUR-12 OES-07 NASA-01 ACDA-12 COME-00 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 WRDE-00 /131 W
-----016593 141803Z /46

O R 141723Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7924
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
24TH CONTW HOWARD AFB CZ/IN

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2451

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORS, EC
SUBJECT: QUITO VIOLENCE CONTINUES

REF: (A) QUITO 2410; (B) QUITO 2398

1. IN THE FACE OF CONTINUING DISTURBANCES APRIL 13, THE GOE
ANNOUNCED ON THAT DATE THAT THE CURRENT DISORDER IS CAUSED BY
TRAINED AGITATORS GOVERNED BY FOREIGN INFLUENCES. THIS APPEARS
TO BE A CLEAR REFERENCE TO THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED UNIVERSITY
ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN PROM NENTLY INVOLVED IN THE
CURRENT PROBLEMS.

2. THE GOE ADMITTED APRIL 13 THAT TWO INDIVIDUALS HAD DIED
APRIL 12 IN PROTEST-RELATED VIOLENCE. ACCORDING TO REPORTS
A STUDENT WAS KILLED WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO FORCE A TRUCK DRIVER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 02451 141757Z

TO LET HIS CARGO BE USED FOR A STREET BLOCKADE. ALSO ON
APRIL 12 AN ECUADOREAN EMPLOYEE OF THE NASA SPACE STATION'S
LOCAL CONTRACTOR WAS KILLED BY STRAY GUN SHOTS APPARENTLY
FIRED BY A SOLDIER WHEN THE NASA VEHICLE IN WHICH HE WAS
GOING TO WORK WAS STOPPED BY PROTESTORS' BLOCKADES. HE HAD
DEPARTED THE VEHICLE WHEN SHOT (REF A). SEVERAL MORE POLICEMEN
AND PROTESTORS WERE INJURED IN THE PAST DAYS' RIOTING.

3. ON APRIL 13 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HELD FOR PARTICIPATION IN INCIDENTS REPORTEDLY INITIATED A HUNGER STRIKE THAT THEY PLEDGED TO CARRY ON UNTIL THEY ARE RELEASED AND THE BUS FARE INCREASE IS RESCINDED.

4. ADMIRAL ALFREDO POVEDA SUMMONED QUITO'S MAJOR NEWSPAPER AND TELEVISION DIRECTORS APRIL 13 AND SUGGESTED THAT THE COMPLETE AND SOMETIMES SENSATIONAL NEWSPAPER AND TELEVISION COVERAGE WAS IN FACT ENCOURAGING FURTHER VIOLENCE AND ASKED FOR EDITORIAL RESTRAINT. ALTHOUGH COVERAGE THE EVENING OF APRIL 13 WAND THE MORNING OF APRIL 14 WAS COMPLETE, IT WAS LOW KEY. THE GOE ALSO MOVED APRIL 13 TO RESCIND THE CLOSURE AGAINST TWO QUITO RADIO STATIONS THAT HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF INACCURATE AND INFLAMMATORY REPORTING.

5. THE GOE INITIATED MILITARY PATROLS OF QUITO AT 1800 AND INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE FOR THE DURATION OF THE DISORDERS. A PULBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATED THAT THE TROOPS WOULD TAKE FIRM STEPS TO PREVENT THE LIGHTING OF BONFIRES IN THE STREETS OR ANY OTHER ANTI-SOCIAL ACTIVITY.

6. LABOR UNIONS CARRIED OUT A ONE HOUR STRIKE APRIL 13 TO PROTEST THE BUS FARE INCREASES AND LABOR LEADERS REPORTED TO THE PRESS THAT SEVERAL WORKERS HAD BEEN INJURED. OTHER REPORTS INDICATE THAT WORKERS FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 02451 141757Z

SOUTHERN PART OF THE CITY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN DISTURBANCES. THE RECENT NIGHT VIOLENCE HAS NOT BEEN RESTRICTED TO STUDENTS BUT HAS INVOLVED ELEMENTS OF THE GENERAL POPULATION AS WELL. ALSO, IT APPEARS THAT THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT SITUATION TO CARRY ON SUCH ACTIVITIES AS DEMANDING TRIBUTE TO LET CARS AND PEDESTRIANS PASS UNMOLESTED.

7. CARDINAL PABLO MUNOZ VEGA, ARCHBISHOP OF QUITO, MADE AN UNUSUAL PUBLIC CALL ON APRIL 12 FOR PRUDENCE AND PATRIOTISM, PARTICULARLY FROM THOSE PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE PRESENT CONFLICT, NOTING THAT SOCIAL DISTURBANCES ARE A THREAT TO THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL PEACE.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE GOE TENDS TO BLAME PROFESSIONAL AGITATORS FOR MOST PUBLIC DISORDER PROBLEMS, THERE MAY BE SOME TRUTH IN ITS ANNOUNCEMENTS. THE CHINESE LINE COMMUNIST FEUE UNIVERSITY STUDENT ORGANIZATION IS GREATLY INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE GENERAL POPULATION AS WELL REFLECTS A GENERAL MOOD OF DISSATISFACTION OVER THE COST OF LIVING AND MUST BE WORRISOME TO THE GOE. THE ANNOUNCED FEUE HUNGER STRIKE

MIGHT SERVE TO CARRY THE PRESENT MOOD OVER INTO NEXT WEEK.

9. IF THE PROTESTS CONTINUE, THE GOE MAY FIND ITSELF PRESSED
BY THE REDUCTION OF ITS COUNTER-MEASURE OPTIONS. ARMY
CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL RAUL CABRERA TOLD CHARGE
APRIL 13 THAT TEARGAS SUPPLY HAD GIVEN OUT. OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND NOTED THAT
THE POLICE WERE EXHAUSTED AND THAT ARMY TROOPS WHO MIGHT
REPLACE THEM LACK THE EXPERIENCE AND PATIENCE OF THE
POLICE.
CORR

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978QUITO02451
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780161-0244
Format: TEL
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780454/aaaabubv.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 359901b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 QUITO 2410, 78 QUITO 2398
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2962095
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUITO VIOLENCE CONTINUES
TAGS: PORS, PINS, EC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/359901b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014